

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 13904 202034Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
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R 201228Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8502

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13904

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FOR DUBS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, IN
SUBJECT: KEWAL SINGH'S ARRIVAL

REF: STATE 231888

1. THE AMBASSADOR IS MOST RAGEFUL FOR YOUR PROMPT AND THOROUGH RESPONSE TO HIS MESSAGE REGARDING KEWAL SINGH'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HAS BEEN OF GREAT USE TO US IN OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH KEWAL SINGH.

2. THE DCM SPOKE TO KEWAL SINGH ON SEPT. 20, CONVEYING TO HIM THE DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO GET RIGHT TO WORK DEVELOPING GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE INDIAN EMBASSY AND THE USG. AS YOU SUGGESTED, THE DCM LAID OUT FACTS REGARDING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS. KEWAL SINGH SAID HE HAD BEEN PLANNING TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON OCT. 10 AND WASHINGTON OCT. 11. HE WOULD NOW, HOWEVER, PLAN TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON THE 7TH OR 8TH, LEAVING 3 DAYS FOR INITIAL CALLS IN THE DEPARTMENT. HE ENTIRELY UNDERSTANDS THAT CANCELLATION OF EITHER OR BOTH OF THE LATE SEPT. AND OCT. CEREMONIES WOULD MEAN HE COULD PROBABLY NOT MEET THE PRESIDENT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION. IN THE EVENT THESE CEREMONIES DO NOT, REPEAT NOT TAKE PLACE ON SCHEDULE, HE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED SO THAT HE COULD RETURN TO HIS ORIGINAL PLAN TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK OCT. 10. HE DECIDED
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TO ARRIVE IN OCT. BEFORE THE ELECTIONS BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN

INSTRUCTED FROM "THE HIGHEST LEVEL" TO GET TO HIS POST
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. KEWAL SINGH WAS ALSO PLEASED TO HEAR THAT THE ONLY
RESTRICTION ON HIS ACTIVITIES AS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR WAS
THAT HE MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE. HE INDICATED NO RELUCTANCE
TO START OUT HIS ACTIVITIES IN THIS STATUS.

4. KEWAL SINGH WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE DEPARTMENT'
EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF INCLUDING THE PROMPT GRANTING OF
AGREEMENT. HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD HAND NOTHING
TO DO WITH TEJA'S REQUEST FOR SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS
CREDENTIALS CEREMONY AND THAT HE WAS QUITE AGREEABLE TO
WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS WERE CUSTOMARY. HE INDICATED HIS
FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE REASONS FOR THE UNCERTAINTIES
ABOUT HIS CREDENTIALS CEREMONY AND EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THE
EFFORTS ALREADY BEING MADE ON HIS BEHALF.

5. IN SHORT, KEWAL SINGH IS OBVIOUSLY ALREADY MAKING EFFORTS
TO CHANGE THE STYLE OF THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR AND YOUR HELP
HAS ENABLED US TO RECIPROCATATE.
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